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The situation in the Middle East

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Sixty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 3 August 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit herewith a complaint against Israeli enemy forces. Today, Tuesday, 3 August 2010, those forces attacked Lebanon, resulting in the martyrdom and injury of a number of Lebanese army personnel and two Lebanese civilians, in addition to the martyrdom of a Lebanese journalist (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of General Assembly, under agenda item 15, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the identical letters dated 3 August 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

At precisely 0745 hours today, Tuesday, 3 August 2010, the commander of the Lebanese Army liaison unit received a communication from the liaison unit of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to the effect that the enemy Israeli army intended to cross the technical fence in the area of Udaysah at 0800 hours, local time, in order to cut down a tree. On examining the matter, the Lebanese Army became aware that demarcation of the area involved was disputed by Lebanon. The UNIFIL liaison unit officer conveyed that information to the Israeli side, stating that it was not entitled to take any action without prior coordination with the international and Lebanese sides. The Lebanese Army informed UNIFIL that the latter could, if necessary, perform the required task in place of the Israeli Army. The Israeli side persisted in its intention to cross the technical fence and cut down the tree. It did so in the knowledge that the Lebanese side had informed UNIFIL of its rejection of that move. The Lebanese Army and the enemy Israeli Army then entered a state of high alert on either side of the border. UNIFIL forces were also present. At 1145 hours, the Israeli Army brought in a hoist manned by one soldier in order to cut down the tree, prompting Lebanese Army personnel to fire warning shots into the air. The Israeli side responded with targeted fire towards the Lebanese Army, leading to an exchange of fire between the two sides. At 1245 hours precisely, the Israeli Army bombarded Lebanese Army positions at Nabi Uwaydah hill, Udaysah and Mashru' al-Tayyibah. Lebanese Army units responded with light and medium weapon fire. The Israeli bombardment resulted in the martyrdom of two Lebanese corporals and one civilian. Eleven staff members sustained various injuries. One civilian was injured and three personnel carriers caught fire. It was decided at around 1500 hours that both sides would cease fire. The Lebanese side complied at once. However, the Israeli side delayed for some time, and continued to bombard Lebanese positions before agreeing to hold its fire as a result of UNIFIL efforts.

This Israeli aggression constitutes a flagrant contravention of Lebanese sovereignty, Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), international law and the Charter of the United Nations. It affirms yet again Israel's disdain for international resolutions, its determination to pursue its aggressive and provocative policy, and the threat which it persistently poses to international peace and security. Lebanon insists that the Security Council must fulfil its duties by taking the appropriate measures to ensure that Israel refrains from violating Lebanese sovereignty and ends its policy of aggression towards Lebanese territory and citizens. Israel must be held accountable before the international community.